

Bitesize KS3 English Literature – Shakespeare Merchant of Venice – Performance analysis – Casting Portia transcript

PRESENTER

Portia, one of theatre's strongest heroines and a crucial piece of casting. No audience is going to root for her unless she's played by an actor who can embody her many virtues. Tricky.

She's got money and she's funny. She's bright and full of fight. She's a menace to the men of Venice, winning with her wits and not with her... good looks. She's bored of her situation and she sometimes dresses up as a bloke.

Sounds like an ex of mine. This is Casting Portia!

TITLE

MERCHANT OF VENICE
CASTING PORTIA

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Hi.

PRESENTER

She certainly looks the part. Portia is meant to be beautiful.

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

By my troth, Nerissa, my little body is... weary of this great world.

CASTING DIRECTOR

You're very sweet but I need someone with a bit more bite.

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

OK. Thank you.

PRESENTER

Wetter than a weekend in Wales. Portia is hard core, remember?
There, there. It's OK. Shh.

[CAPTION-CASTING PORTIA]

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Are we doing this, or what?

CASTING DIRECTOR

And, action.

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Don't rush me.

Bitesize

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

I had rather be married to a death's-head with a bone in his mouth than either of these. God defend me against these two.

PRESENTER

She's definitely nailing Portia's feisty attitude.

CASTING DIRECTOR

It's very good, but, erm, could you try something for me?

PRESENTER

The director's just giving her a few notes. Let's see what she does with them.

CASTING DIRECTOR

I didn't mean it. Your performance was great.

PRESENTER

I don't think this is going to work out.

[CAPTION-CASTING PORTIA]

MALE ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Alright?

CASTING DIRECTOR

Erm... I think you've made a mistake.

PRESENTER

Yeah. Those shoes with that handbag?

MALE ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Oh, please, come on, give me a chance.

PRESENTER

Actually, he's got a point. Portia does disguise herself as a man and women weren't allowed to be actors in Shakespeare's day.

MALE ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man.

MALE ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Hold on. This girl acts like all men are pathetic idiots. I'm not doing this.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Oh, come back! That attitude is perfect. Let's talk.

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Yep.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Oh, I'm sorry. Are you the person who was just in here?

Bitesize

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Yeah.

CASTING DIRECTOR

It's just, you look totally different.

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Well, Portia's a master of disguise. So am I.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Wow. That is amazing. If you can do that every night, you'll be perfect.

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Sure thing.

MALE ACTOR

Did they buy it?

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

You ruined it.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Get out.

ACTOR AUDITIONING AS PORTIA

Get out.

MALE ACTOR

Sorry.

TITLE:

MERCHANT OF VENICE
CASTING PORTIA